MEMO

To: Scott Furlong, Dean of Liberal Arts and Sciences
From: Christine Style, chair of Academic Affairs Council
Date: 19 May 2010
RE: AAC Modern Languages Program (MLP) Self-Study Report

The Academic Affairs Council met on 14 April 2010 to discuss the Modern Languages Program self-study report written by Dr. Ortiz and dated 14 December 2009. Modern Languages (ML) faculty present at this meeting were Dr. Nicole Meyer, chair of ML and Dr. David Coury. AAC members present were: Woo Jeon, Dennis Lorenz, Kaoime Malloy, Christine Style and Tim Sewall.

Overview
The Modern Languages Program offers four different options (majors/minors and majors/minors with teaching certifications) for each of the following language areas: French, German and Spanish. Additionally they offer courses in Japanese, Arabic and Italian to serve other language needs.

The French major and minor have one full-time faculty member (1 full professor) with at least 8 credit hours available to hire adjunct faculty. In 2009 the French Program had 27 majors and 35 minors, up from previous years.

The German major and minor has two full-time faculty members (2 associate professors) who currently receive 12 and 6 credit course releases for administrative duties and allow for part-time faculty to be hired. The number of majors and minors has remained mostly consistent with 29 majors and 17 minors in 2008.

The Spanish major and minor has four full-time faculty members (1 associate professors, 2 assistant professors, and 1 full-time lecturer). In 2009 the Spanish Program had about 90 majors and at least 76 minors in addition to the approximately 500 students who take Spanish classes.

Spanish is the ‘largest small’ major at UW-Green Bay and as the Spanish speaking population grows regionally the need for program needs will also continue to grow.

Program Strengths and Areas in Need of Attention
The MLP serves UW-Green Bay and the Northeast Wisconsin community. Modern Languages faculty and students often serve as consultants, translators and interpreters for the regional needs. MLP offers various course delivery options (outreach, evening courses, travel courses, several cultural events, etc.) to meet the demands from the community. Internships at local elementary and middle schools provide important service-learning opportunities. MLP also actively cultivates partnerships with national and international communities.

The Modern Languages Program faculty share many common language goals, which are closely aligned with the American Council for Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL). Some of these learning outcomes are: to develop the ability to speak standard French, German or Spanish at the ACTFL intermediate-high level and to comprehend clearly articulated everyday conversations at the ACTFL advanced level; to read and write about non-technical topics at the ACTFL advanced level; to know selected great works of French, German or Spanish language literature and their context.

MLP has a clear mission statement that shares and supports the mission of the Humanistic Studies program and the UW-Green Bay Core/Select Mission and the Guiding Principles. The acquisition of communication skills, and the ability to closely analyze complex texts and ideas are the primary focus for the MLP, which promotes knowledge of a broad spectrum of world cultures and sensitivity to values and socio-cultural issues.

Advising is generally good within the three major/minor areas of study, and varies within each area, the student demand, and how busy the faculty are doing other university tasks. Assessment in the languages is very good as the use the ACTFL standards and at the upper-level the lower enrollment numbers allow for more effective one-on-one interactions that prevent students from slipping through with the skills
needed. Additional staffing would allow for better advising and lower head counts in the lower-level classes.

An MLP accomplishment is the establishment of an International Business Minor in collaboration with the Business Department. It expands opportunities of study abroad as well as internships for language students. It also expands their existing Japanese/German exchange with Saint Norbert College. In addition, the MLP faculty members’ strong commitment and ongoing contribution on supervising the Language Resource Center, the Language House, and the Language Clubs make high (some highest) ratings on the alumni survey possible.

Although three language programs have very different needs and experiences, the MLP needs a plan to work together more as one program. The program might work together more to solve staffing issues of retention, advising, language promotion, independent studies, and study abroad. Only 1 - 2 faculty members advise French and German programs respectively, and they handle majors/minors plus higher load internships, independent studies, abroad studies, etc. because of the characteristic of the programs. The Spanish program has the highest number of majors but also the greatest advising need and continues to look at improving advising and accommodating the high demand for Spanish speakers in education, business and aboard.

Additionally, due to increasing demands for second languages by the community, UWGB should offer more introductory level courses in the program, which will add more pressure to the MLP faculty members for maintaining upper level courses. Also, students are taking too many courses taught by a single faculty member for their majors. Even though the MLP faculty members have been able to offer various subjects, it would be more beneficial to both students and faculty members if multiple faculty members with various specialties guide majors.

There are some minor concerns and one of them is how the MLP courses in the St. Norbert College’s catalogue are published each year. It is a part of Japanese/German exchange program and needs to be done by the registrar’s office in both institutions. This should be communicated to both registrars’ at both schools. Also, the ACC suggested to MLP the possibility of offering a Modern Language Major or if on-line courses could be offered. Both suggestions would need additional faculty and may not in long run help MLP be more effective.

Finally, there is another concern brought up by the MLP faculty members. Unlike most of other institutions (state-wide as well as nation-wide), there is currently no language requirement at UWGB and it is in opposition to the UWGB mission that promotes an internationalizing curriculum.

**Recommendations include the following:**

While there are individual program differences in French, German, and Spanish the AAC recommends that the seven full-time faculty work together more and at the very least would like the next MLP review for the AAC to consolidate their common goals, outcomes and challenges, note the differences and work toward the future together.

Staffing continues to be an issue and will continue as long as the demands are there by the students and community. An additional position in both French and Spanish would go a long way in promoting international and local exchanges.

The administration might also think about adding a language requirement to the UW-Green Bay graduation requirements.

MLP needs to communicate more effectively with the registrar’s at St. Norbert College and UW-Green Bay regarding the Japanese/German exchange program.

CC: Nicole Meyer, David Coury, Jennifer Ham, Cristina Ortiz, AAC members, Tim Sewall, SOFAS